

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on December 23, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

Claim 5 has been amended, claims 1, 10 and 11 have been cancelled, and claim 12 has been added. Claim 5 is the independent claim, and claims 5, 9 and 12 are pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 5 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chainer et al (US 6,957,337), in view of Murase et al. (US 2002/0046347) and further in view of Hideaki et al (JP 2003044892).

Claim 5 has been amended. It is submitted that the rejection is inapplicable to the amended claim. Amended claim 5 is directed to a multi-authenticating system for organism authentication. The multi-authenticating system includes a first authenticating apparatus, a storage unit, a searching unit, an apparatus discriminating unit, and a second authenticating apparatus. The first authenticating apparatus has a first organism authenticating unit for performing a first organism authentication using a physical feature of an authentication target, and a medium issuing unit for issuing an authenticating medium if the first organism authentication produces an affirmative result. The second authenticating apparatus includes a second organism authenticating unit, a medium authenticating unit, a medium collecting unit and an apparatus control unit. The second organism authenticating unit performs a second organism authentication using the physical feature of the authentication target. The medium authenticating unit authenticates the authentication target using the

authenticating medium if results of the first and second organism authentication coincide. If the authentication performed by the medium authenticating unit produces an affirmative result, the medium collecting unit collects the authenticating medium, and the apparatus control unit permits use of another apparatus.

The Examiner relies on *Chainer et al.*, *Murase et al.* and *Hideaki et al.* for a teaching of the claimed invention. *Chainer et al.* relates to a method of authenticating a subject, which includes using one or more biometric measurements for authentication without any of the biometric measurements being accessible in any form to any external device or external party.

Murase et al. relates to a user confirmation system using a recording medium capable of storing information. The *Murase et al.* system includes a biological information obtaining part for obtaining first biological information on a user at a time of first use of a recording medium. An owner registration part registers the first biological information in the recording medium, considering the user as an owner of the recording medium. An owner confirmation part detects second biological information on a user at a time of second and later use of the recording medium. The owner confirmation part also determines whether or not the user of the recording medium is identical with the owner registered in the recording medium, based on the first and second biological information.

Hideaki et al. relates to a visitor management device that registers and manages an application for the visit of a visitor. The device connects to portable terminal devices to transmit and receive information.

However, none of *Chainer et al.*, *Murase et al.* and *Hideaki et al.*, or a combination thereof, teaches or suggests a second authenticating apparatus includes a

second organism authenticating unit for performing a second organism authentication using the physical feature of the authentication target, a medium authenticating unit for authenticating the authentication target using the authenticating medium if results of the first and second organism authentication coincide, a medium collecting unit for collecting the authenticating medium if the authentication result of the medium authenticating unit is affirmative, and an apparatus control unit which permits use of another apparatus if the authentication result of the medium authenticating unit is affirmative. That is, the cited references fail to teach a system including a second authenticating apparatus that (1) first obtains biometrics data of a user, then determines whether the user is an authorized user by comparing the obtained biometrics data with previously obtained biometrics data, (2) then, if the user's biometrics data coincide with the previously obtained biometrics data, authenticates the user using a card of the user, and (3) then, if the authentication result is affirmative, collects the user's card and allows the user to use another apparatus. Thus, in contrast to the prior art, in the claimed invention, the second authenticating apparatus of the multi-authenticating system performs both the organism authentication and the medium authentication in the same apparatus, and also collects the authenticated medium and unlocks the apparatus control unit in the same apparatus, thereby providing a more secure method of authentication.

Therefore, *Chainer et al.*, *Murase et al.* and *Hideaki et al.* do not teach or suggest all of the features recited in claim 5. Claim 5 thus is not rendered obvious by the cited references.

Claims 1, 10 and 11 have been cancelled. Claims 9 depends from claim 5, and is thus patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons advanced above as

to the patentability of claim 5. Therefore, the rejection of claims 5 and 9 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

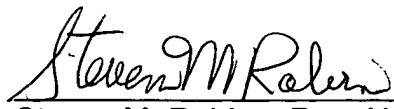
Claim 12 has been added to further protect the invention. As claim 12 depends from claim 5, it is also patentable over the art of record.

Based on the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and such a Notice earnestly is solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

No fee is believed due. Should any fee be required, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and is requested to advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven M. Rabin – Reg. No. 29,102
RABIN & BERDO, PC
Cust. No. 23995
Facsimile: 202-408-0924
Telephone: 202-371-8976

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Date

SMR/HZ:ac